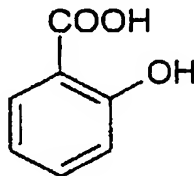


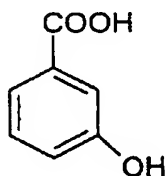
in which m is 1 and n is 0, 1 or 2,

and x represents 2, 4 or 5, y represents 1 or 2 and z represents 0, 1 or 2; in the form of enantiomers, of diastereoisomers, as well as the mixtures thereof, including the racemic mixtures, of free bases or of pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

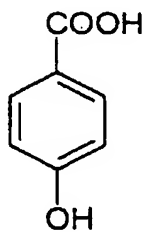
2. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein the compounds L are chosen from benzoic acid derivatives, in particular 2-hydroxybenzoic acid of formula:



3-hydroxybenzoic acid of formula:

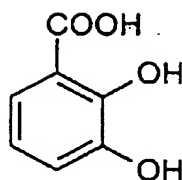


4-hydroxybenzoic acid of formula:

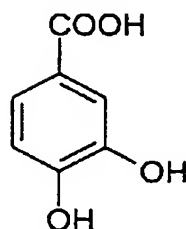


2,3-dihydroxybenzoic acid of formula:

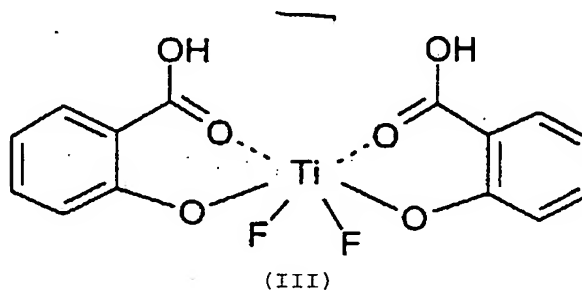
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3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid of formula:



3. (Amended) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein it satisfies the formula below (III):



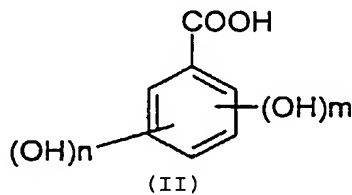
4. (Amended) A method for preparing a titanium-derived compound according to Claim 1 wherein solid titanium IV fluoride is reacted with a solution of benzoic acid in an anhydrous solvent such as acetonitrile, under a nitrogen atmosphere.

5. (Amended) A composition for buccal use, wherein it comprises at least one titanium-derived compound satisfying the formula (I) below:



(I)

in which L represents a compound of formula (II) below:



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in which m is 0, 1 and n is 0, 1 or 2,

and x represents 2, 4 or 5, y represents 1 or 2 and z represents 0, 1 or 2; in the form of enantiomers, of diastereoisomers, as well as the mixtures thereof, including the racemic mixtures, of free bases or of pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

6. (Amended) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 5 wherein it comprises at least one titanium-derived compound in an amount which is equivalent to from approximately 10 ppm to approximately 10,000 ppm of fluorine.

7. (Amended) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 5 wherein it is in the form of toothpaste or toothgel, of mouthwash, of spray, of foam, of gargling product, of dental gel or of chewing gum, balm, paste, glaze, lozenge, tablet, antiseptic throat preparation, powder, or concentrated or unconcentrated solution.

8. (Amended) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 5 wherein it also comprises at least one polishing agent of inorganic or organic origin in proportions ranging up to 80% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

9. (Amended) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 8, wherein the polishing agent comprises in particular calcium, magnesium or sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, calcium phosphates and sulphates, alumina and hydrated alumina, silicas, magnesium oxides, hydroxides, trisilicates and pyrophosphates, cellulose compounds obtained by crushing cereal seeds, sodium or potassium metaphosphates, calcium phosphate dihydrate, dicalcium phosphate, tricalcium phosphate, calcium pyrophosphate, alumina, hydrated, and in particular trihydrated, aluminas, aluminium or zirconium silicates, bentonite, as well as magnesium orthophosphate or trimagnesium phosphate.

10. (Amended) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 5 wherein it also comprises one or more cohesion agents, in proportions ranging up to approximately 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition, chosen in particular from natural thickeners such as alginates or pectins, natural gums such as gum tragacanth or xanthan, guar, carob or carrageenan gums, synthetic carrageenates, and synthetic thickeners such as cellulose

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derivatives for instance the sodium salt of carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxyalkylcelluloses or crosslinked polyacrylic acids.

11. (Amended) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 5 wherein it also comprises one or more surfactants of anionic, amphoteric, zwitterionic, cationic or nonionic nature.

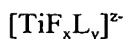
112 12. (Amended) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 5 wherein it also comprises one or more active agents used in buccal hygiene, in particular agents known to reduce bad breath, such as for example chlorhexedine, cetylpyridinium chloride, cyclodextrins or zinc compounds such as zinc halides, zinc acetate, zinc citrate or zinc fluoride.

13. (Amended) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 5 wherein it also comprises one or more cohesion agents, thickeners, antibiotics, sweetening, wetting or refreshing agents, peptizing agents, preserving agents, sweeteners, dyes, aromas, flavourings and flavour-enhancing substances, plasticizers, antibacterial agents or bactericides, vitamins, antitartar agents, healing agents, vasomotor agents, anti-bleeding agents, agents which are active on the gums, anti-inflammatory agents such as enoloxone, benzydamine, allantoin or permethol.

112 14. (Amended) A composition ~~Compositions~~ for buccal use according to Claim 13, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the sweetening agents comprise sucrose, lactose, fructose, xylitol, sodium cyclamate, sodium saccharinate or maltose, sodium or ammonium glycyrrhizates, alpha-glucosyl/ steviolglucoside mixtures, D-mannitol, aspartame, acesulfame K, sorbitol, lycosin and mixtures thereof.

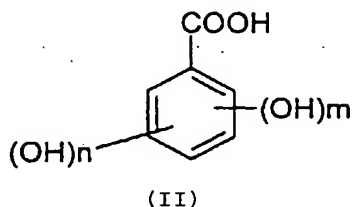
112 15. (Amended) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 13, wherein the antibacterial agents comprise essential oils, plant extracts or substances such as alexidine, octinidine, hexetidine, phenoxyethanol, phenethyl alcohol, triclosan, chlorhexidine, cetylpyridinium chloride and delmopinol, in proportions ranging up to approximately 10% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

112 16. (Amended) A method of protecting against dental caries which comprises administering a titanium-derived compound satisfying the formula (I) below:



(I)

in which L represents a compound of formula (II) below:



in which m is 0 or 1 and n is 0, 1 or 2,

and x represents 2, 4 or 5, y represents 1 or 2 and z represents 0, 1 or 2; in the form of enantiomers, of diastereoisomers, as well as the mixtures thereof, including the racemic mixtures, of free bases or of pharmaceutically acceptable salts, ~~as protecting agent against dental caries.~~

Please add the following new claims:

17. (New) A method for preparing a titanium-derived compound according to Claim 2, wherein solid titanium IV fluoride is reacted with a solution of benzoic acid in an anhydrous solvent such as acetonitrile, under a nitrogen atmosphere.
18. (New) A method for preparing a titanium-derived compound according to Claim 3, wherein solid titanium IV fluoride is reacted with a solution of benzoic acid in an anhydrous solvent such as acetonitrile, under a nitrogen atmosphere.
19. (New) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 6, wherein it is in the form of toothpaste or toothgel, of mouthwash, of spray, of foam, of gargling product, of dental gel or of chewing gum, balm, paste, glaze, lozenge, tablet, antiseptic throat preparation, powder, or concentrated or unconcentrated solution.
20. (New) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 6, wherein it also comprises at least one polishing agent of inorganic or organic origin in proportions ranging up to 80% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

21. (New) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 7, wherein it also comprises at least one polishing agent of inorganic or organic origin in proportions ranging up to 80% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

22. (New) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 19, wherein it also comprises at least one polishing agent of inorganic or organic origin in proportions ranging up to 80% by weight with respect to the total weight of the composition.

23. (New) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 20, wherein the polishing agent comprises in particular calcium, magnesium or sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, calcium phosphates and sulphates, alumina and hydrated alumina, silicas, magnesium oxides, hydroxides, trisilicates and pyrophosphates, cellulose compounds obtained by crushing cereal seeds, sodium or potassium metaphosphates, calcium phosphate dihydrate, dicalcium phosphate, tricalcium phosphate, calcium pyrophosphate, alumina, hydrated, and in particular trihydrated, aluminas, aluminium or zirconium silicates, bentonite, as well as magnesium orthophosphate or trimagnesium phosphate.

24. (New) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 21, wherein the polishing agent comprises in particular calcium, magnesium or sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, calcium phosphates and sulphates, alumina and hydrated alumina, silicas, magnesium oxides, hydroxides, trisilicates and pyrophosphates, cellulose compounds obtained by crushing cereal seeds, sodium or potassium metaphosphates, calcium phosphate dihydrate, dicalcium phosphate, tricalcium phosphate, calcium pyrophosphate, alumina, hydrated, and in particular trihydrated, aluminas, aluminium or zirconium silicates, bentonite, as well as magnesium orthophosphate or trimagnesium phosphate.

25. (New) A composition for buccal use according to Claim 22, wherein the polishing agent comprises in particular calcium, magnesium or sodium carbonate or bicarbonate, calcium phosphates and sulphates, alumina and hydrated alumina, silicas, magnesium oxides, hydroxides, trisilicates and pyrophosphates, cellulose compounds obtained by crushing cereal seeds, sodium or potassium metaphosphates, calcium phosphate dihydrate, dicalcium phosphate, tricalcium phosphate, calcium pyrophosphate, alumina, hydrated, and in particular

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